



Salvaging Wet Stored Grain or Feed

Grain

Flood-damaged grains must be salvaged quickly because grain can begin to spoil within a few hours. Wet grain molds and heats up quickly, possibly resulting in spontaneous combustion. You can remove dry grain and store it separately, but the best way to save wet grain is to get the grain to a commercial dryer quickly.

If part of a grain bin has been flooded, remove dry grain from the top, using a vacuator or other means. If the remaining wet grain has not started to sour, run it through a grain dryer several times.

If dry storage is available, use a natural air drying system with a metal perforated floor or a lateral duct system.

- Put the grain over this drying tunnel to a depth less than 6 feet.
- Use a crop drying fan to force air up through the grain.
- Use supplemental heat only during periods of high humidity.
- Do not raise air temperature more than 10 or 15 degrees.
- Use peanut-drying wagons when available.

If neither a commercial dryer nor a drying tunnel is available, spread the grain in as dry a place as possible, to a depth of not more than 6 inches.

If it is not possible to dry grain artificially, try to find a local market for the wet grain. This grain must be sold at a salvage price, possibly to a large livestock feeder who can use it before it spoils. Grain should be kept in airtight storage to prevent spoilage. Wet grain that has not begun to deteriorate is worth as much as other grain for feeding purposes.

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Document DH-084,
IFAS Disaster Handbook for
Extension Agents (developed
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Service for the benefit of
Florida's citizens)

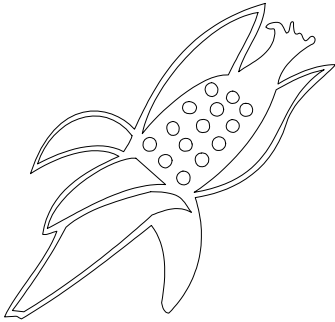
Shelled corn can be ensiled wet if the moisture is 25% to 35%. Place the grain in a bay concrete or metal silo and use it for livestock feed. You may need to increase the reinforcement of the silo, particularly if it is filled to a depth of more than 30 feet. To prevent air leakage around silo door openings, cut plastic sheets to extend 4 to 6 inches beyond the opening. Place a plastic cover over

the grain in a concrete stave silo. Dig a trench around the edge of the grain and push the plastic down and out against silo walls.

Wet seed grain will probably be unsuitable for seed. Wetness causes the seed to germinate. Subsequent drying stops germination and will probably kill the seed or reduce its viability. Do not feed seed grain to livestock because it may contain toxic additives.

Ear Corn

Dry wet corn as soon as possible. Separate dry ear corn and store it on high ground. If the ground is wet, first cover the area with plastic or building paper. Handle wet ear corn as follows:

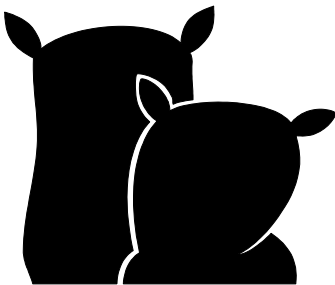


- Dry the corn if facilities and equipment are available.
 - Remove the corn from crib, since mush and debris washed into the crib may make drying difficult or impossible.
 - Then place the ear corn over a drying tunnel and force air through the corn with a crop drying fan.
- Shell the corn if shelling equipment is available.

Hay Stored in Stacks

Wet hay will begin to heat and mold very quickly. Spontaneous combustion could occur within 2 or 3 days. Move and restack any dry portions of hay.

- Promptly take wet hay from buildings and spread it out to dry.
 - Turn and shake it frequently.
 - Open wet bales and spread them out well.
- Mechanical drying is better and faster than manual drying.
 - Construct a drying tunnel of dry hay bales.
 - Stack the hay over the tunnel to a depth of less than 6 feet.
 - If you stack baled hay over the drying tunnel, break the bale ties first.
 - A fan pushed into the side of a haystack also speeds drying.



Silage

Wet corn silage will probably not be greatly damaged if flood waters are drained away from around the silo soon after flooding. Watch silage for evidence of spoiling as you remove it for feeding.